

the amount of Social Security surplus House Republicans are on track to spend, \$24 billion; amount by which the House Republican appropriations exceed the President's request, \$14 billion; the Republican leader who said he never would have created Social Security, the majority leader, my colleague from Texas (Mr. ARMEY); number of days the GOP budget tax plan would extend the life of Social Security, zero; the number of years House Democratic budget would extend Social Security, 16 years; total cost of the tax breaks that, thank goodness, the President vetoed was a trillion dollars, and that would have even been worse on Social Security.

Let me tell my colleagues what we need to do. We need to add more teachers to our classroom, more police officers to our streets and the number of military personnel who would be cut by the Republican-proposed 1.4 percent budget would be 39,000 military personnel.

REPUBLICANS HAVE A BETTER IDEA

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I guess it is true what they say about old dogs. No matter how hard we try sometimes, we just cannot teach them new tricks. So when we try to stop the people who have been raiding the Social Security Trust Fund from doing it any more, well, that is a lot easier said than done. See, they have been using this money to fund big government programs, and if we tell them they have got to find one penny out of every Federal dollar to preserve Social Security for America's retirees, that is a pretty tough trick for them.

The comments of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) tell us just how hard a time the Democrats are having learning it when he says that we should spend as little of the Social Security surplus as possible. What he is really saying is let us spend as much of the Social Security surplus as we want on the Federal bureaucracy, and if there happens to be any money left, heck, we may as well give it back to the people it belongs to.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have a better idea: stop the raid first. Strengthening retirement security must be a top priority, not an afterthought.

FIGHT FOR OUR SCHOOLS

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is our sacred responsibility to make sure that all of our children have an equal opportunity to learn. But today I rise to express my deep concern that the Republican leadership does not

share this commitment. While Democrats have been working night and day to improve education, to put more teachers in our schools and to reduce class sizes, the Republican leadership have been trying to take money out of the schools and away from the majority of this country's children.

The Republican plan is not just. The Republican plan is not right. We should be building up our schools, not knocking them down. For the sake of our children, all of our children, we must fight for our schools.

PRESIDENT SENDS PLAN ON SOCIAL SECURITY TO HOUSE

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me an opportunity to stand before the forum this morning and express my appreciation.

□ 1030

For a number of days, I have been in the well seeking the President's plan on Social Security, and I have, for 29 days, been tracking the fact that, until yesterday afternoon, the President had not delivered a plan.

While I am pleased to say that we have received a plan, it did just come in yesterday afternoon, it is a very lengthy plan, it is filled with many however's, and whereases, and therefore's, and thereases, and I am working my way through it. But I did want to stand and express my appreciation to the administration, Mr. Speaker, for having forwarded the plan and to say that we will be reviewing it.

I hope it gets a fair hearing, and I am looking forward to the dialogue as to the adequacy of the plan. So with that, Mr. Speaker, this placard is no longer operative. Again, I thank the administration for finally forwarding their plan.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, last night the President sent Congress his legislative proposal, entitled Strengthen Social Security and Medicare Act of 1999.

The President's plan would devote the entire Social Security surpluses to debt reduction, extend the solvency of Social Security to 2050, and establish a Medicare surplus reserve equal to one-third of any on-budget surpluses for the period of fiscal years 2002 through 2009 to strengthen and modernize Medicare.

I want to stress to my colleagues the urgency in discussing and reaching a fair compromise on this proposal. If we do not, our constituents will suffer and be caught in the middle of a partisan battle, and I am very concerned.

In New York, Social Security benefits 2.3 million people who are retired workers, disabled workers, widows and widowers, wives and husbands, and over 247,000 children in New York receive Social Security benefits. In my district, in southeastern Queens, 74,579 people receive Social Security benefits, of which 9,000 of these individuals are children.

We must preserve Social Security so that our constituents will have a decent quality of life.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let's go Yankees.

CBO SAYS REPUBLICANS' PLAN DOES NOT SPEND SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, some of my friends on the other side of the aisle are continuing to claim that the Republican Congress' spending plan takes from the Social Security Trust Fund. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth.

The problem with the Democrat claim is that it is based on spending assumptions that have never materialized. They simply do not exist.

Let me share with the House an updated letter, dated September 30, 1999, from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. It says, "CBO estimates that the Republicans' spending plan will not use any of the projected Social Security surpluses in fiscal year 2000."

The facts are clear, this Republican Congress is not and will not spend the Social Security surplus.

STATE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, Senator George Mitchell resumes talks today with pro Good Friday Agreement political leaders from Northern Ireland.

Since the Good Friday Agreement was signed on April 10, 1998, we have seen some progress towards a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. The Patten Commission has issued its report on Policing in Northern Ireland and the cease-fire has remained intact.

Despite these positive events, the agreement's foes have consistently sought to delay and derail implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, particularly David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party.

The most recent effort to derail the peace process centers around the debate on decommissioning. Even though the Good Friday Agreement contains no provision that the IRA begin decommissioning before Sinn Fein can take its place on the Executive Committee, First Minister and UUP leader David Trimble has linked the two issues together in clear violation of the Good Friday Agreement.

In the words of Mr. Adams, the Unionists need to "get real" and enter into the power-sharing executive as called for under the agreement. And Britain's new Secretary for Northern Ireland, Peter Mandelson, has warned politicians, and I quote "the people of Northern Ireland will not forgive them if they put barriers in the way of permanent peace."

Mr. Speaker, if the Good Friday Agreement should fail, it may prove disastrous for the peace process because there is no alternative.

It is a dangerous game the Unionists are playing with real lives at stake. It is my hope, and that of so many Irish Americans, that this game of brinkmanship by the Unionists will end before it is too late for the Good Friday Agreement.

REPUBLICANS WANT 100 PERCENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKED UP

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, many of my friends on the other side of the aisle claim Republicans are spending Social Security money. They support the President's plan, where the President said he wanted 100 percent in Social Security, then 3 weeks later he came back and said, well, 60 percent in Social Security, 15 percent in Medicare.

What he does is take \$466 billion out of Social Security and puts it up here for new spending. He will not identify cuts. New spending. Then he took \$19 billion and put it up here for new spending.

We are saying no, put the 100 percent in Social Security, lock it up, let it accrue interest. We will not only save Social Security and Medicare forever, but that accrued interest also pays down the national debt, in which we pay nearly a billion dollars a day.

I would ask of believability, fiscal conservative or liberal Democrat, being fiscally conservative is an oxymoron.

REPUBLICANS WANT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE 100 PERCENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there are two prevailing issues or schools of thought on what to do about Social Security surpluses. The Republican Party wants to protect and preserve 100 percent of it. But do not take my word for it as a Republican, let me quote to my colleagues what John Podesta, the White House Chief of Staff says. "The Republicans' key goal is to not spend the Social Security surplus." Again, words spoken by the White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, Clinton's right-hand man.

Now, the Democrats, on the other hand, led by the President, last January, wanted to spend 38 percent of it. The President stood right behind where I am now and said, "Let us preserve 62 percent of Social Security but spend the rest on other programs."

Now, as of late he has come around to say, well, maybe we should not do that. But this is what the Democrat leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), said this Sunday. And I will just put these words here, and again it is a direct quote. That, "since we have the surplus, we have to get ready for baby boomers, and we should spend as little of it as possible."

Now, join us, please. I ask the Democrats, protect 100 percent of Social Security, not just most of it. The way to do it is if we cut one penny out of every dollar in the budget, we can protect and preserve Social Security. A penny saved is a retirement earned and secured for our seniors.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2260, PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 339 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 339

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2260) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to promote pain management and palliative care without permitting assisted suicide and euthanasia, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the bill modified by the amendments recommended by the Committee on Commerce now printed in the bill. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five min-

utes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided, that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this is a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2260, the Pain Relief Promotion Act of 1999. H. Res. 339 provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary.

The rule waives clause 4(a) of Rule XIII, which requires a 3-day layover against consideration of the bill.

H. Res. 339 makes in order as an original bill for the purpose of amendment the Committee on the Judiciary amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified by the amendments recommended by the Committee on Commerce and printed in the bill.

The rule provides for consideration of only the amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution. The rule further provides these amendments will be considered only in the order specified in the report, may be offered only by a member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment.

Specifically, the rule makes in order an amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) to be debated for 10 minutes and a substitute amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) to be debated for 40 minutes.

The rule also allows the Chairman to postpone recorded votes and reduce to 5 minutes the voting time on any postponed question, provided the voting time on the first in any series of questions is not less than 15 minutes. This provision will simply facilitate consideration of amendments.